

# **KEEPING THEM CONNECTED: THE ROLE OF PARENT-CHILD VISITATION IN PROMOTING CHILD WELL-BEING AND ACHIEVING TIMELY PERMANENCY**

**November 8, 2012**

**Lexington Lansing Hotel  
925 South Creyts Road  
Lansing, Michigan 48917**



**Sponsored by:  
State Court Administrative Office  
Child Welfare Services Foster Care Review Board and  
Michigan Court Improvement Program  
And  
Michigan Department of Human Services**

## BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Studies have shown that parent-child visitation is an essential component for ensuring child well-being and achieving timely permanency for children served by Michigan's child welfare system. Frequent parental involvement that is well planned, purposeful, and progressive eases a child's anxiety, reduces the impact of trauma caused by separation from the child's parent, and improves the child's overall well-being while in foster care. Such visitation has been shown to shorten a child's stay in foster care and increase the likelihood that safe and permanent reunification will occur. This multidisciplinary training designed for an audience of judges, attorneys, caseworkers, foster parents, and other child welfare professionals will illustrate the importance of maximizing parent-child contact. The training will also highlight the need for reasonable efforts to protect, promote, and improve the connections between parents and their children in out-of-home placements.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

- Judges and referees
- Tribal judges
- Attorneys for children and parents
- Prosecutors and assistant attorneys general
- Caseworkers for the Michigan Department of Human Services, tribes, and private agencies
- CPS workers
- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Foster Care Review Board members
- Other child welfare professionals and policymakers

## AGENDA

<b>8:15-9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:00-9:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Opening Comments</b>
<b>9:15-10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Stop Calling it "Visitation"</b> <i>Dr. Katharine P. Leslie, Ph.D., CFLE; Owner, Brand New Day Consulting</i>
<b>10:30-10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:45 a.m.-Noon</b>	<b>How Do You Know What At Risk Families Really Need? Using Assessment and Measurement Tools to Support Families</b> <i>Dr. Katharine P. Leslie, Ph.D., CFLE; Owner, Brand New Day Consulting</i>
<b>12:00-1:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:15-2:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Planning and Implementing Progressive, Purposeful, and Successful Parenting Time</b> <i>Rose Wentz, Consultant, National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections at the Hunter College School of Social Work, New York</i>
<b>2:45-3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:00-4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>PANEL: Parent-Foster Parent Collaboration in Keeping Them Connected</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Dr. Katharine P. Leslie, Ph.D., CFLE; Owner, Brand New Day Consulting</i>

## TRAINING COSTS

THERE IS NO REGISTRATION COST TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE. The cost of the conference is generously funded by the Michigan Department of Human Services and the Michigan Court Improvement Program. Conference materials and lunch are provided. **Travel, meals other than lunch, and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the participant.**

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. However, there may be some exceptions to ensure geographic diversity and participation across professions. ***Due to space limitations, restrictions have been placed on the number of individuals per agency and discipline who may attend this training. Registration will not guarantee attendance.***

A confirmation notice will be sent to you approximately two weeks before the training. If you have not received a confirmation by November 1, 2012, contact Heather Leidi at 517-373-5322 or [LeidiH@courts.mi.gov](mailto:LeidiH@courts.mi.gov).

## LODGING INFORMATION

A limited block of overnight rooms has been reserved at the Country Inn & Suites for November 7, 2012, at a rate of \$65 per night for single-occupancy lodging. This block of rooms will be released back to the hotel after October 18, 2012, so please make your reservation early. We cannot guarantee these rates after the October 18 deadline. **Please note:** You are responsible for your lodging expenses.

**Country Inn & Suites:** To make your reservations at the Country Inn & Suites call 517-827-7000 and reference "110712FARE" to ensure that you receive the reduced rate. Country Inn & Suites is located at **6511 Centurion Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48917**, just off Creyts Road and approximately two blocks from the training site at the Lexington Lansing Hotel. Directions can be found at the following websites:

Site Map: <http://www.countryinns.com>

MapQuest: [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### Social Work Continuing Education

An application to offer Continuing Education (CEs) for Master and Bachelor level social workers is pending. Upon approval, we will provide CEs at no charge to qualified individuals who attend the training.

To obtain CEs, you must complete and submit a CE form that will be provided on-site. To receive full credit for CEs, you must be seated in the room at 9 a.m. and you must attend the entire training. There are no exceptions to these requirements.

## VIDEOTAPING WAIVER

By registering for this training you grant Child Welfare Services staff and any subcontracted agencies the right to use your likeness, image, voice, appearance, and presentation as recorded during the conference or later transferred to videotape, film, slides, photographs, audiotapes, or other media, now known or later developed. This grant includes, without limitation, the right to duplicate and display the recording in whole or in part as CWS may elect.

## TRAINING REGISTRATION

**Online Registration: [Click here](#)**

**OR**

Follow the steps below:

- 1) Go to the Child Welfare Services webpage:  
**<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/CWS/TrainingDevelopment.htm>**
- 2) Select: **“Upcoming CWS Off-Site Programs”**
- 3) Select: **“Schedule of Upcoming Programs”**
- 4) Select: **“Keeping Them Connected: The Role of Parent-Child Visitation in Promoting Child Well-Being and Achieving Timely Permanency”**
- 5) Click: **“Register”** and complete the form

Please use **Internet Explorer** as your browser when registering for this training. If you have problems registering, please contact Heather Leidi at [LeidiH@courts.mi.gov](mailto:LeidiH@courts.mi.gov) or 517-373-5322.

You should submit your registration as soon as possible to increase the likelihood that your registration will be confirmed. Your registration is a commitment to attend the entire portion of the training for which you register. Please do not register to attend this training unless you have scheduling flexibility and have received the necessary authorization to attend.

If you need to cancel after you have been confirmed to attend this training, please contact Heather Leidi at [LeidiH@courts.mi.gov](mailto:LeidiH@courts.mi.gov) or 517-373-5322 as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. On-site registration is **not** available.